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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

JEFFREY T. BERGNER, STAFF DIRECTOR  
GERYLD B. CHRISTIANSON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

July 21, 1986

Senator Richard Lugar,  
Chairman  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
SD-440

Senator Claiborne Pell  
Ranking Democrat  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
SD-447

Dear Senator Lugar and Senator Pell:

Yesterday, the Boston Globe reported that the C.I.A. provided financial and other assistance for mercenaries who fought with and supported the contras during the period in which direct or indirect U.S. assistance to the contras was prohibited by Congress.

These new allegations suggest that the C.I.A. may have intentionally violated the Congressional prohibition on aid to the contras known as the "Boland Amendment."

I know that both of you fully recognize the risks to our political system posed if laws passed by Congress are ignored or circumvented by other branches of our government.

The allegations contained in the Boston Globe article, which I enclose, only further my belief that this Committee has a responsibility to undertake a thorough investigation into allegations of criminal activities by the contras and some of those supporting them, with witnesses subpoenaed and testifying before this Committee under oath.

I also enclose, for your interest, a copy of a letter I sent to Attorney General Meese today, asking for a Justice Department probe into these new allegations about C.I.A. Boland Amendment violations.

Sincerely,

  
John Kerry

Enclosures

RICHARD G. LUGAR, INDIANA, CHAIRMAN

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July 21, 1986

Attorney General Edwin Meese  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Attorney General Meese:

Yesterday, the Boston Globe reported that the C.I.A. provided financial and other assistance for mercenaries who fought with and supported the contras during the period in which direct or indirect U.S. assistance to the contras was prohibited by Congress.

These new allegations suggest that the C.I.A. may have intentionally violated the Congressional prohibition on aid to the contras known as the "Boland Amendment."

According to the Boston Globe, the C.I.A. hired mercenaries to aid the contras in Costa Rica in 1984 and 1985, overseeing the operations of the Civilian Military Assistance Group (CMA), which was providing men and nonmilitary supplies to the contras.

Given the Boland Amendment's ban on C.I.A. support for the contras, these new allegations are serious and I believe they merit an in-depth investigation by the Justice Department.

As you may know, since January, my office has been conducting an investigation into allegations that the contras and some of their supporters have violated U.S. laws.

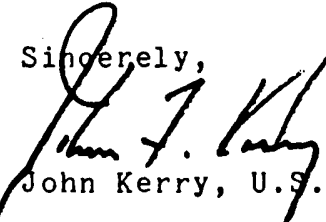
Based on this investigation, I believe there is sufficient evidence of criminal activities by the contras to warrant a full-scale Congressional probe, as well as a thorough investigation by the Justice Department.

In order to determine the current status of federal efforts to follow up on these allegations, I would appreciate you providing me with a summary of any investigations you

have undertaken into these allegations, including whether the investigations are open or closed.

I am enclosing a copy of the Boston Globe article regarding the apparent C.I.A. violation of the Boland amendment.

Sincerely,



John Kerry, U.S.S.

# CIA-backed force aided contras, sources say

By Robert Healy and Stephen Kimbrough

WASHINGTON, July 20 — The CIA-backed mercenaries who are fighting to overthrow the Nicaraguan government in 1984 and control the country, according to sources here, are not the CIA's own men, but are a group of mercenaries who are being trained and supplied by the CIA. The CIA is not the only agency involved in the operation, but it is the main one, according to sources here and in the United States.

At the end of the operation, part of the CIA's plan is to have the mercenaries, who are being trained in the United States, go to the Central American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras, where they will be fighting against the Sandinista government. The CIA is not the only agency involved in the operation, but it is the main one, according to sources here and in the United States.

From the beginning, the operation in the words of one US intelligence official, was a "three" of mercenaries, who are being trained and supplied by the CIA. The CIA is not the only agency involved in the operation, but it is the main one, according to sources here and in the United States.

The main strategic group consisted of approximately 20 mercenaries recruited by a private American firm, which is now being trained and supplied by the CIA. The CIA is not the only agency involved in the operation, but it is the main one, according to sources here and in the United States.

Ultimately, Posey's group was to be trained and supplied by the CIA. The CIA is not the only agency involved in the operation, but it is the main one, according to sources here and in the United States.

Model of the activity by the mercenaries group, which is now being trained and supplied by the CIA. The CIA is not the only agency involved in the operation, but it is the main one, according to sources here and in the United States.

12 THE BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE JULY 20, 1984

## CIA-paid forces aided contras, sources say

■ CONTRAS  
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viewed by the Globe, now believe was carried out by contra units with the technical assistance of an arms expert carrying a Belgian passport.

The CIA ban remains in effect at least until the Reagan White House determines who will administer \$100 million in US aid for the contras (including \$70 million for military supplies) that the US House approved last month and the Senate is expected to give final approval to this summer. Administration sources have said recently that most of the money would be administered by the CIA.

But within the period of the ban, numerous mercenaries recruited by Posey's Civilian Military Assistance group traveled to Honduras and Costa Rica to take part in training and, in a few instances, military missions with contra groups.

**CIA has no comment on charges**

A CIA spokesman had no comment on the allegations. Several news organizations, including the Globe, have published

articles revealing some of the activities of the mercenaries, but there have been no authoritative sources quoted on whether the CIA was responsible for their presence in Central America.

However, last week, an official of the Costa Rican government told the Globe that he knew that the previous administration of Luis Alberto Monge had information that the group was involved in the Nicaraguan conflict. He said the present government of President Oscar Arias had learned since taking office in May that the CIA had been involved in supporting the mercenaries' activities in Costa Rica.

The official, who asked that he not be identified, said that among those responsible for overseeing the operation was Charles John Hull, an American citizen who owns a large farm in northern Costa Rica, near the Nicaraguan border.

A source familiar with the US intelligence community confirmed Hull's participation, saying that "he was getting well paid and did what he was told to do" by the agency as part of the mercenary operation. "Hull was a means to an end," the source said. "They used Hull as an individual to channel things in the right way (so that) it didn't get the US into hot water.... He was the linchpin between the operations and the policy."

Several of the mercenaries, who were arrested by Costa Rican authorities near Hull's farm in May 1985, have told reporters that Hull indicated that he was receiving \$10,000 a month from the US government to help supply the contras.

Hull denies the charges. However, the Costa Rican official said the previous administration, while pledging strict neutrality in the Nicaraguan conflict, had "looked the other way" and allowed Hull to use his farm as a sanctuary and supply depot for contra and mercenary operations.

**Message 'has been made clear'**

"We have let Mr. Hull know that we are keeping a close eye on him," the Costa Rican authority said. "The message has been made clear to him."

Five mercenaries — two Englishmen, a Frenchman and two Americans, who had been recruited by Posey's CMA group — were arrested along with nine contras close to Hull's farm by Costa Rican police shortly after dawn on May 1, 1985.

In an interview with the Globe earlier this year, one of the five, Steven P. Carr, of Naples, Fla., said he believed that Hull had ordered their arrests because Carr had participated in a military raid on a Nicaraguan camp in which a number of Sandinistas were killed or wounded. Hull, he said, had warned the contras against engaging in any battles because Congress was then debating the contra aid package, and Hull did not want any negative publicity to damage the chances of passage.

A Costa Rican government leader, familiar with the operation, said the arrests had been made because the mercenaries' activity "was out of control, the entire operation, and we had to get them out of here." The five Western mercenaries spent more than a year in a Costa Rican jail before being released on bail this spring. Their trial on charges of possession of munitions is due to be held in Costa Rica later this summer.

The mercenaries were among about 20 men recruited by Posey's CMA organization to travel to Honduras and Costa Rica in 1984 and 1985 to aid the contras in their war against the Sandinistas. Although some congressmen have questioned whether the mercenaries may have violated US anti-neutrality laws by involvement in military engagements against a government with whom the United States was not at war, President Reagan originally praised their efforts, calling them volunteers for the contra "freedom fighters."

In interviews with a number of news organizations, members of the mercenaries said their activities in Central America consisted mainly of taking medical and humanitarian supplies to the contras, assisting in establishing contra camps and repairing automotive and military equipment.

**Military role acknowledged**

However, several said that they did take part in military forays

with the contras and did participate in the planning of other raids.

Soon after his arrest in Costa Rica, another of the mercenaries told reporters that shortly before arriving in the country he was given the name of a man to contact if he ran into any trouble. The man was subsequently identified as the director of the CIA's Latin America division.

The primary purpose for the presence of several of the mercenaries, however, was not to lend support to the contras, the Globe was told. Instead, their goal was to provide information on CMA's activities to a CIA contract agent.

The agent, who agreed to be interviewed by the Globe on the basis that his identity would not be revealed, said that he had contracted with one agency official to pay to send several mercenaries to Central America through CMA.

The contract agent, who agreed to the interview because he was angry at the Reagan administration for its failure to secure the mercenaries' release from jail, said he was told by a CIA official to "bird-dog" the Posey operation to determine if they were "super patriots or just nuts."

"Let us know if they embarrass us," the agent quoted his CIA contact as telling him. He was told to keep the agency informed of his findings, which he said he did, and that his expenses would be paid. He said he has yet to submit a bill for his expenses, which he estimated at less than \$10,000.

As our sale clanks into its third week I cannot help but admire the boys at Louis who wrap theirs up in three days. I don't have the nerve to try it because we wouldn't have anything to sell except the new Fall merchandise that has arrived. Each year at this time we urge our faithful to plan ahead. "You're going to need a new gray flannel suit for fall, so why not get it now, even though the temperature is in the nineties?" and they look at me like I'm crazy. Besides, I can't concentrate anyway. I mean, don't you just know that the Red Sox are going to blow this lead?

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## Indignant Ortega marks '79 revolution